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PARIS, SATURDAY-SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27-28, 1986

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CRASH SURVIVOR — Saleem Dado, a Jordanian businessman who survived the crash of an Iraqi Airways jet following a hijacking attempt, described 20 minutes of terror before the plane hit the Saudi Arabian desert, broke in two and exploded, killing 62 persons. Page 2.

Surplus Narrows In Japan

Trade Figures For November At \$8.5 Billion

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches TOKYO — Japanese government figures confirmed Friday that the country's huge trade surplus continued to shrink last month. But economists said that Japan, which is trying to defend its economic policies against complaints by its trading partners, would still have a record surplus for the 1986-87 fiscal year.



Fire in Hong Kong Leaves 1,700 Boat Dwellers Homeless A fire destroyed about 150 junks and sampans Friday in a Hong Kong cove that is popular with tourists because of its floating restaurants. Two persons were hurt and 1,719 lost their homes in the fire, which started before dawn in a typhoon shelter at Aberdeen on Hong Kong island. The blaze, fanned by a winter monsoon, lasted for four hours. The cause was unknown.

U.S. Envoy Linked To a Contra Airstrip

By James LeMoyné New York Times Service

MIAMI — The U.S. ambassador to Costa Rica helped secure initial Costa Rican permission to build a secret airstrip for the Nicaraguan rebels early this year and was deeply involved in overseeing its use, according to a senior government official in Central America. According to U.S. government and Nicaraguan rebel officials, Ambassador Lewis A. Tambis and other officials in the embassy in San José maintained close contact with people involved in a so-called private supply network for the rebels.

LATE NEWS

Soviet Frees Peace Activist

MOSCOW (AP) — A member of an unofficial Soviet peace group has been released from a two-year term in a labor camp, a fellow activist said Friday. Larisa Chukayeva, a member of the Committee to Establish Trust Between the U.S.S.R. and the United States, returned to Moscow on Thursday, according to a colleague, Alexander Rubchenko, who said she received an amnesty under a legal provision covering charges that are not considered serious.

INSIDE TODAY

GENERAL NEWS

The bloom is off the rose for young, ambitious professionals in Texas. Page 3. Economists forecast a further decline for the dollar. Page 7. ARTS/LEISURE

SPORTS

Mikael Pernfors defeated Paul McNamee in Davis Cup tennis to bring Sweden even with Australia, 1-1. Page 13.

Fire in Hong Kong Leaves 1,700 Boat Dwellers Homeless

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American Catholics: Conflicts With Rome, at Home

Issues Include Celibacy, Homosexuals, Birth Control, Abortion and Divorce

By E.J. Dionne Jr. New York Times Service

ROME — Long before it was popular to do so, a Roman Catholic clergyman from the United States favored celebrating Mass in English instead of Latin, the election of the leadership of the American church by its own priests instead of its appointment by Rome, and a strong role for the laity. The man in question was not a latter-day Catholic dissident, but John Carroll, the first Catholic bishop of the United States, elected by his fellow clergymen in 1789. Pope Pius VI agreed to leave the choice to them, which was not unusual at the time.

Vatican in Transition

John Paul and Dissent

Second of three articles

According to a New York Times-CBS News Poll in November 1985, a majority of American Catholics favored permitting Catholics to get divorced and marry someone else (73 percent), favored the use of artificial methods of birth control (68 percent), favored letting Catholic priests marry (63 percent) and favored letting women become priests (52 percent).

Abshire Will Coordinate Reagan Case in Inquiries

WASHINGTON — President Ronald Reagan, going outside the White House for help in a time of political turmoil, on Friday appointed David M. Abshire, the U.S. delegate to NATO, to coordinate responses to investigations of the Iran-contra affair. A White House spokesman said Mr. Abshire, 60, would report directly to the president and not to Donald T. Regan, the White House chief of staff.



David M. Abshire

Amid Empathy for Reagan, a Weariness With Iran

By Jay Mathews Washington Post Service

RED CLOUD, Nebraska — Someone had come into the gaily decorated gift shop asking about Iran. Nicholas Grevas, the dapper 68-year-old caretaker, frowned with impatience at this intrusion into his holiday routine.



Many travelers in Paris chose buses as rail service was crippled by strikes. Page 2.

South Korea Crackdown Threatens Labor Rights

By Susan Chira New York Times Service

SEOUL — She works in a small clothing factory, or at least she did until she was dismissed recently for refusing to work an extra 12-hour shift on a Sunday. The 30-year-old worker, who declined to give her name for fear of being blacklisted by employers, was accustomed to long hours. She had worked 10-hour days, six days a week, sewing buttons on clothes for an average monthly salary of \$185.

In Japan, They Drink to Toast the New Year, Obliterate the Old

By Clyde Haberman New York Times Service

TOKYO — Japanese, as a rule, do not fall down on the job. After work, though, it's another story. Every evening, as faithfully as a bartender listening to a woe-filled tale, Tokyo's gray-flannelled samurai cluster in bars and pubs to drink themselves into states of near collapse. Late at night, the ones who have not entered the primary stages of paralysis try uncertainly to make their way home. Commuter trains at about 11 P.M. are filled with businessmen in tan raincoats literally falling all over each other.

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# Dole Gains Limelight In Iran-Contra Crisis

## Senator's Take-Charge Performance Could Boost His Presidential Chances

By Helen Dewar  
*Washington Post Service*

WASHINGTON — Once again, Bob Dole, the Senate Republican leader, was bathed in the limelight of the Iran-contra crisis as he appeared last week with the Democratic leader, Robert C. Byrd, to announce members of a Watergate-style committee to investigate the affair.

Has not the seemingly endless trauma destroyed the Republicans' chances of keeping the White House in 1988, a reporter asked. Without missing a beat, without contesting the premise of the question that his pursuit of the nomination was worthwhile, Mr. Dole smiled and said, "I'll take it."

It was vintage Dole: a glib quip to escape a perilous situation that might entrap a less agile politician. But it also helps paint a picture of Mr. Dole as he wants the world to see him — a buoyant, confident take-charge leader who can make the best of adversity.

Whether it also evokes an image of an overly ambitious politician climbing "over the corpse of a popular president," as was suggested by an aide to Representative Jack F. Kemp, Republican of New York, is a matter of debate among Republicans and Democrats. Mr. Kemp is a rival for the 1988 presidential nomination.

Scarcely a day has passed without Mr. Dole appearing on television or on newspaper front pages, sometimes defending the president, sometimes distancing himself from administration "mistakes," sometimes doing both in virtually the same breath.

While Vice President George Bush has done his best to avoid the limelight and Mr. Kemp has tried unsuccessfully to gain a share of it for his more unimpeachable support of the administration, Mr. Dole has stolen the show as a one-man, all-purpose, damage-control operation.

Polls and political strategists indicate that, partly because of his recent highly visible performance, he has moved within striking distance of Mr. Bush in early maneuvering for the nomination, in a good position to pick up the pieces among mainstream Republicans if Mr. Bush becomes too deeply embroiled in the controversy.

But some strategists question whether he can continue this high-wire act without taking a tumble.

Mr. Dole's political gain from the affair is borne out by a poll taken from Dec. 9 to 11 for U.S.

News & World Report magazine. Among Republicans and independents, it showed Mr. Dole closing in on Mr. Bush and far outdistancing Mr. Kemp as the favorite for the Republican presidential nomination: 25 percent for Mr. Bush, 20 for Mr. Dole and 11 for Mr. Kemp. Among Republican respondents alone, Mr. Dole won 39 percent, Mr. Dole 20 and Mr. Kemp 9.

Over the last three weeks, Mr. Dole's outflow of advice, some solicited and some not, has been dizzying. He called for a special session of Congress to create a select investigating committee. He proposed a meeting of major allies to "lay all the cards on the table."

He embraced suggestions for a special board to review national security operations, a special prosecutor and a special legal adviser within the White House.

He urged President Ronald Reagan to lay out the whole story and to prevail on the former national security adviser, Vice Admiral John M. Poindexter, and on Lieutenant Colonel Oliver L. North, both critical figures in the affair, to do the same.

While praising Mr. Reagan's action to clear the air, Mr. Dole has leaned on him to do more. He has invoked the specter of the Watergate scandal, which led to the resignation of Richard M. Nixon, but also has suggested that the Iran-contra affair may be overlooked.

He once said that the White House should "let a couple of wagons go over the cliff" but has stoutly refused to join the bipartisan chorus of demands for the dismissal of such top figures as the White House chief of staff, Donald T. Regan, and the CIA director, William J. Casey.

Mr. Dole said he doubted that anyone would believe that Colonel North had acted alone while Admiral Poindexter looked the other way, but he has aggressively defended the administration against charges of higher-level complicity.

Some of his ideas have been adopted. Both the Senate and the House are planning select committees, but his proposals for a special session of Congress and a joint House-Senate investigating panel were rejected.

The notion of a conference with U.S. allies raised eyebrows but little interest, an example of how Mr. Dole can go too far and undermine his advantages, a friendly critic said.



FORGET THE MERRYMAKING — Lawrence B. Gibbs, the Internal Revenue Service commissioner, with an enlarged version of the 10-40 tax return form. The IRS began sending out 85 million tax forms Friday.

### AMERICAN TOPICS

#### Scruples Don't Pay, Contractor Discovers

Awarded a \$16,143 contract as the low bidder to replace window screens at the U.S. Marine Corps base in Quantico, Virginia, W.C. Burnette said he inspected the site afterward, saw that only a few new screens were needed, and told the contracting officer he could do the job for \$200. He then sent the contract back unsigned.

"It would have been just like stealing if I had taken that job, and I told them I wouldn't do it," said Mr. Burnette, a contractor in Dawsonville, Georgia. The government later sued him for \$1,215.89 for the delay and expense involved in hiring another contractor. Mr. Burnette, acknowledging that he is technically liable, said he would pay the \$1,215.89.

But he also wrote to Defense Secretary Caspar W. Weinberger. A public affairs officer for the Marines said that the matter is being investigated. A spokesman for Sam Nunn, Democrat of Georgia and the incoming chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, said that the senator is likely to look into the case.

#### Short Takes

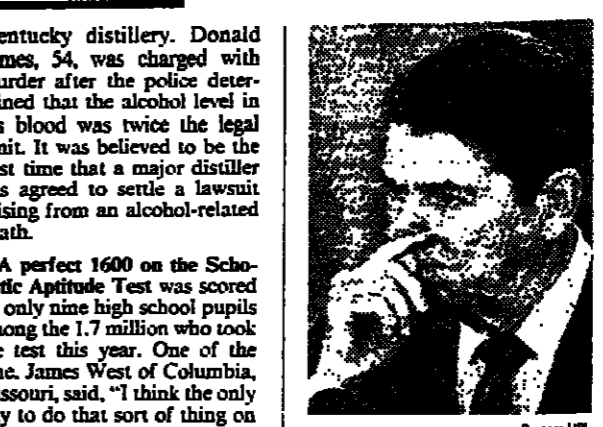
A rise in state prison populations, from 262,000 overall in 1979 to 382,000 in 1984, reduced the cell space for each inmate by 11 percent despite construction to allow extra space, according to the U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics. The typical inmate of one of the 694 American state prisons occupied 57 square feet (5.1 square meters) of housing space in 1984 and spent about 11 hours a day confined to a cell. During the same 1979-84 period, states hired 35,000 additional guards, pushing the nationwide total above 90,000 and changing the staffing ratio from 4.6 inmates per guard to 4.1.

A full-page advertisement by Manny Azenberg, the producer of Neil Simon's well-received play in New York, "Broadway Bound," ran in the New York Times, listing critics who praised the new show in small type at the bottom of the page. In large type at the top, the ad said, "Every drama critic said it, but perhaps Time magazine said it best," and it included a quote from Time's critic, William A. Henry 3d. Apparently, some of the other critics objected. The producer canceled a rerun of the ad and sent telegrams of apology to all of them.

Brown-Forman Corp. has agreed in an out-of-court settlement to pay a "substantial amount" to the family of a General Electric Co. executive, Don E. Payton, 61, who was killed last summer by a car driven by an executive of the Louisville, Kentucky distillery. Donald James, 54, was charged with murder after the police determined that the alcohol level in his blood was twice the legal limit. It was believed to be the first time that a major distiller has agreed to settle a lawsuit arising from an alcohol-related death.

A perfect 1600 on the Scholastic Aptitude Test was scored by only nine high school pupils among the 1.7 million who took the test this year. One of the nine, James West of Columbia, Missouri, said, "I think the only way to do that sort of thing on the SAT is not to take it seriously. If you take it seriously, you get flustered and you start making mistakes." The 17-year-old's hobbies include war games and reading science fiction, political science and philosophy.

Richie Alegre, 6, may have received the ultimate toy: a genuine, 35-ton World War II Sherman tank in working order. He had been asking for one for two years when his father, Dick, 57, a Saticoy, California, avocado farmer and apartment-house owner, saw one advertised in a used-airplane magazine. Mr. Alegre won't say what he paid for it, but the going price is up to \$70,000. He, Richie, and Richie's 10-year-old sister, Deborah, drive the tank around the farm near Los Angeles. Said Mr. Alegre, "I can't tell you what a ball we've had with it."



Ronald Reagan  
The envelope, please

This parable about the Iranian arms sales crisis is related by The New York Times: "As he left office, Jimmy Carter gave President-elect Reagan three envelopes to be opened only in a crisis. When his popularity plummeted during the 1982 recession, Mr. Reagan opened the first and found this message: 'Blame me.' He did and his popularity revived. When the soaring deficit cost him popularity in 1984, he opened the second envelope. 'Blame Congress,' it said. He did, and won re-election by a landslide. Last week, shaken by the present crisis, he opened the third envelope and read this message: 'Prepare three envelopes.'"

—ARTHUR HIGBEE

## Honduran General Warns Sandinists

By Bernard E. Trainor  
*New York Times Service*

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras — The commander of the Honduran armed forces says that if Sandinist troops violate Honduran territory again, Honduras will consider a retaliatory air strike deep inside Nicaragua.

Earlier this month, the Honduran Air Force bombed Sandinist positions after Nicaraguan troops and rebels clashed in the border region. Honduras asserted that the fighting took place on its territory and Nicaragua maintained that its forces did not violate the border.

The commander, General Humberto Rosales, said Thursday that the Honduran attack on the Sandinist positions on Dec. 8 was in self-defense.

If the Nicaraguans repeat their violation of Honduran sovereignty, he said, he will recommend to President José Azcona Hoyo that an air strike be carried out deep into Nicaragua.

The Sandinist government also is known to be especially concerned by the targets he had in mind. But he said that any such attack would not be related to the dispute between the Sandinists and the Nicaraguan rebels, who are known as contras.

"I know the Nicaraguans are having trouble with the contras in the border region," he said, "but this does not give them the right to violate our territory."

Military analysts in the region agree that a Honduran attack in the Nicaraguan interior would constitute a major increase in the violence in Central America. But diplomats in Managua and Tegucigalpa say they doubt that Honduras would carry out the sort of attack suggested by General Rosales.

Honduras and Nicaragua, it is generally agreed, deal with each other with great caution. Honduras has the most powerful air force in Central America and Nicaragua has the largest ground force.

The Sandinist government also is known to be especially concerned

## In Texas, Many Discover, the Bloom Is Off the Rose

By Robert Reinhold  
*New York Times Service*

HOUSTON — Richard Keating recalls with wonder those hectic days after he first moved to Houston from Chicago as a young architect in 1976. Those were days of wild Texas growth, when a 20-story building was a small job, when he and his young colleagues often worked all night, fueled on take-out pizzas and the sheer excitement of building a dazzling new city.

A few months ago Mr. Keating transferred to Los Angeles to take over the busy Skidmore Owings & Merrill architectural office there. Departing with him were about a dozen other architects from the Houston office who, he said, felt that they "want to go where the action is."

The group is in the vanguard of a growing exodus of professionals—architects, lawyers, writers, scholars, bankers—from Texas as its oil economy slows. They are part of a demographic shift under which, for the first time, more people are moving out of Texas than into it.

Many of them had been "carpetbaggers" from the North who came with high hopes and promises of becoming bright stars in the Texas firmament. Many succeeded wildly in a booming state that for all its suspicion of outsiders was remarkably open to them.

But now the possibilities seem much more limited. While it would be an exaggeration at this point to call the trend a brain drain, the shift is enough to stir anxiety at a time when Texas is realizing that its future lies not in exploiting oil and other natural bounty but in intellectual resources.

"Educated people are a critical part of our infrastructure," said Harold Gross, assistant director of the Center for Enterprise at Southern Methodist University in Dallas. "As we begin to lose those people, whether newcomers or native Texans, it represents an erosion of that infrastructure that may prolong the funeral Texas is going through. It's absolutely critical to keep them."

However, it is by no means a one-way flow. The biotechnology concerns springing up in San Antonio, Houston and Dallas are importing talent. Two top eye doctors at the Baylor College of Medicine here, Dominic Men-Kit Lam and Janet M. Ewen, have founded Houston Biotechnology Inc. to market an anti-cataract drug and other medical products. The company has drawn recruits from California and the East.

In a very different realm, Richard Howard, a Pulitzer Prize-winning poet who lives in New York, recently signed a contract to spend every fall semester for the next five years teaching creative writing at the University of Houston.

Still, the quickening consolidation of the state's troubled energy



Tall buildings symbolize past era of wild growth in Houston.

founded by two alumni of Texas Monthly.

"Ultimately there was no compelling reason for me to stay in Texas," he said. "My roots were in New England. The tug of the East was far stronger than any roots I may have put down in Texas."

Clinton A. Phillips, dean of faculty at Texas A&M University in College Station, said, "We are beginning to see folks leave. They tend to be full and associate professors, and highly successful."

While there has been no huge exodus from either A&M or its rival, the University of Texas at Austin, both schools say they are having trouble recruiting top scholars.

"It's virtually impossible to recruit anyone in the liberal arts in a senior position — right now nobody wants to look at Texas," said Robert D. King, dean of liberal arts on the Austin campus.

Apart from oil people, probably no profession has been harder hit than architects. With most Texas cities vastly overbuilt, construction is almost at a standstill. It is a far cry from what Mr. Keating, of Skidmore Owings & Merrill, found when he came here.

In his decade in Houston his office put up more than 30 million square feet (2.8 million square meters) of office space. "None of us realized what we were living through," he said. "Week after week somebody talked to us about a 50- to 60-story building. It seemed rather minimal when someone wanted to do only a 20-story building. In the late '70s, I realized there were more architecturally significant new buildings in downtown Houston than all of New York."

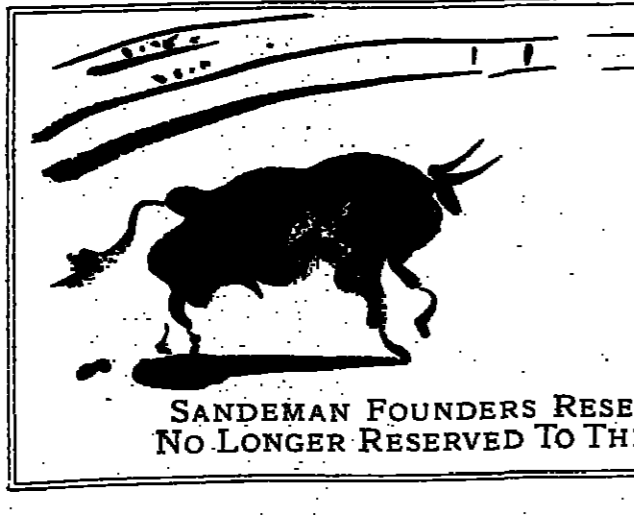
Mr. Keating said the Houston office had been able to get along on out-of-state projects and interior design. He said his departure had to do in part with the company's needs in its Los Angeles office. But he acknowledged, "If you look across the board, there's not much going on in Houston."

and banking industries, along with the problematical future of the space shuttle, are likely to add to the departures.

Recently, two Dallas-based bank holding corporations, the RepublicBank Corp. and the InterFirst Corp., agreed to merge. With the merger, 3,000 jobs were expected to disappear.

The professionals who have left cite complex reasons: partly economic, partly personal, partly a feeling that Texas' great day in the sun is over.

One of those who came in with Texas' high tide in 1981 was Joseph Nocera, who became one of a galaxy of star writers who made Texas



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**Herald Tribune**

Opening for Talks Is Seen in Moscow

Summit Leaders Vow to Push for an Economic Recovery

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Belgium	10,700	5,350	3,210	260	130	78
Denmark	2,300	1,150	690	212	106	64
Finland	1,600	800	480	172	86	52
France	1,400	700	420	210	105	63
Germany	540	270	162	128	64	39
Greece	20,000	11,000	6,600	214	107	64
Netherlands	434	217	130	106	53	32
Italy	140	70	42	100	50	30
Japan	350,000	175,000	105,000	445	222	133
Latin America	10,000	5,000	3,000	240	120	72
Norway	1,600	800	480	210	105	63
Portugal	19,000	9,500	5,700	262	131	79
Spain	26,500	13,250	8,000	190	95	57
Sweden	1,200	600	360	120	60	36
Switzerland	490	245	147	280	140	84
Rest of Europe, North Africa, former French Africa, Middle East	400	200	120	210	105	63
Rest of Africa, Gulf States	550	275	165	250	125	75
AMERICAS	1 year	6 mos.	3 mos.	1 year	6 mos.	3 mos.
N. America	297	148	88	222	111	67
Caribbean	297	148	88	222	111	67
South	272	136	82	206	103	62
Other	540	270	162	397	198	119

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Herald INTERNATIONAL Tribune

Trying to Awaken Europe

Valéry Giscard d'Estaing and Helmut Schmidt piloted France and West Germany through difficult waters in the 1970s without losing sight of the broader European ambitions that had brought them together.

Foreign Aid Needs Fixing

The U.S. government has published the foreign aid allocations for this fiscal year. Of the \$13.6 billion total, two-thirds is now military or related to national security.

Other Comment

Prime Minister vs. the Press

As he left Orly airport, where he had just welcomed Arel Cornea, Prime Minister Jacques Chirac attacked "irresponsible people" who, by "talking constantly about ransom" had almost "wrecked the release of Jean-Louis Normandin."

(financial) terms negotiated in "state-to-state" talks, as the diplomatic formula puts it. Difficult negotiations, we don't doubt it. To each his job, and his responsibilities.

INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE

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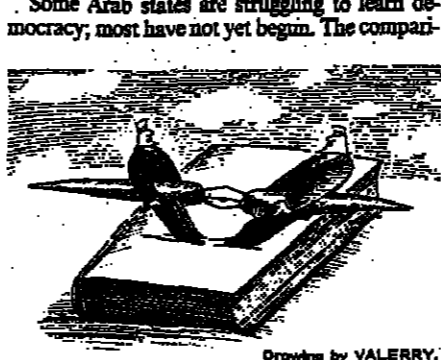
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Our Intellectuals Aren't Doing Their Job

By Flora Lewis

CAIRO — In this region, where three great religions were born, the issues of faith and morals are again stirring societies. They are not simple issues, long settled, because religion is about how men and women behave toward each other as well as about belief in relations to God.

everyone else." Rabbi Kahane accepts the rules of Israeli democracy, he says, "because otherwise it would provoke civil war in this country, and that I would never do. But does it make any sense to hold elections every four years to ask if people want to obey the will of God?"



Drawing by VALERYY.

son cannot be carried too far. Still, there is a similar claim to a right to command a way of life, all aspects of life, based on a divine inspiration that provides knowledge of all that man needs to know. The claim would leave no vacuum, and that is the basis of its appeal.

For Multiracial Democracy, Back the Natal Option

By Charles Krauthammer

WASHINGTON — Just a few months ago, Washington was preening itself on the question of South African sanctions, a moral issue, to be sure, but hardly a central one to the drama unfolding in South Africa.

On Dec. 11 the government imposed Soviet-style press censorship and launched a sweep against political opponents. Unfortunately, the crackdown coincided with the cresting of an affair North. It had trouble making the evening news in America.

This came a few days after the most extraordinary event in Natal. After an eight-month parley — an indaba — representatives of black, white and Asian communities agreed on a formula for multiparty democracy with universal suffrage.

If implemented the proposal would establish a powerful model for the rest of South Africa. Natal has a quarter of South Africa's population. Radicals of all stripes were not pleased. The Afrikaner government, which does not countenance alternatives to white rule over all of South Africa, rejected the plan within 48 hours.

The Afrikaner National Congress boycotted the indaba from the start. The ANC does not countenance alternatives to absolute black rule over all of South Africa. Moreover, the black leader who engineered the Natal compromise was Chief Gatsha Buthelezi, leader of six million Zulus and, unforgivably, a moderate.

The Natal solution would seem the liberal's dream: a multiracial parliament with one house elected on a one-man-one-vote basis and the other house on an ethnic basis to guarantee minority rights. It is the kind of solution that the Western anti-apartheid movement claims is its goal. Where are the critics who say that South African moderates need them?

Unfortunately, the Western anti-apartheid community has learned from the ANC to disdain Chief Buthelezi. He is not bloodthirsty or anti-democratic enough to satisfy the traveling revolutionary. When he visits the United States, Jesse Jackson and Andrew Young do not see him. The official U.S. government re-

sponse has not been terribly helpful either. The State Department issued a vague statement praising "the peaceful process" and the "example of black and white South Africans negotiating on equal terms." The statement ran the full range from lukewarm ("however one feels about the substance of its proposals, the indaba has shown...") to tepid ("the formal indaba proposals warrant the most serious consideration").

The U.S. government should instead have denounced Mr. Botha's dismissal of the indaba, put its full weight behind the plan and insisted that this is indeed a model for all of South Africa. Support for the Natal option would have balanced Secretary of State George Shultz's subse-

quent announcement that he would meet with the leader of the ANC. Nothing wrong with such a meeting. True, it will inevitably bestow a new measure of legitimacy on the ANC, which is in self-proclaimed "organic alliance" with the South African Communist Party. But the ANC is certain to play a critical role in the coming upheavals and in any future South African government. The time for contacts is now. We do not want some McFarlane-esque mission-to-moderates 10 years hence.

But note the irony. While the most conservative American administration in 50 years meets with the most radical of the major players in South Africa, the loudest American anti-apartheid activists disdain the mod-

ernment of Marxism. But both have failed to pass the test of historical experience. Neither nation- socialism nor communism has anywhere cured social ills or delivered its vision of utopia. Both are fading, and in Moslem lands both can be seen as Western ideas unsuitable for assimilation.

No other modern thought has been offered for organizing production, bringing together the essential elements of management, labor and material as effectively as possible. Democracy is a process for accommodation, renewal, correcting mistakes that people are bound to make and adjusting to circumstances. It offers the most decent way for societies to find answers, but it does not guarantee right answers beforehand.

So people who ache from confusion and yearn for certitudes turn to old prescriptions, hallowed by custom but no more assuredly divine than a new spark, a new sense of the miracle and wonder of life. Fearful of the future, confounded by the present, they seek refuge in the past.

This is a massive failure of contemporary thought, of modern intellectuals. For decades, too many have been narcissistic, particularizing their private discomfort when their job is to articulate the needs and hopes of their time.

Medieval practices will not solve problems of the 21st century, but neither will resignation to drift or retreat into the vastness of the solitary psyche. There is a vacuum of spirit that requires conscious effort to show the joys of learning and the marvel of the unknown, to educate and explain why doubt exists so that hope can flourish. That was the task of the early sages. It is the task for now. Faith is necessary and irreplaceable, but without a message of wisdom and humility in human affairs, it can turn vicious.

The New York Times

He Wasted A Chance to Slow Down

By Tom Wicker

NEW YORK — Headlines about the Reagan administration's crisis of leadership and direction have been so thick that the passing of another arms control opportunity was too little noticed or mourned.

On Dec. 18, Soviet officials said they would not continue the nuclear testing moratorium they had maintained for 17 months. A White House spokesman replied almost insolently that that was "their business."

Well, it is also the business of a lot of Americans who want a reduction in the danger of nuclear war, not just between the superpowers but among the numerous other nations that either have "the bomb" or can quickly develop it. These Americans believe, with a power of evidence on their side, that a nuclear test ban would be a useful step in the right direction.

It was presumptuous for that spokesman to assert as if it were fact that entering the moratorium "is not in the security interest of the U.S. or our... allies." He must have known that a number of allies favored the moratorium and believe it could lead to a permanent test ban.

No administration official has explained why the moratorium was opposed to U.S. security interests, since the Russians conducted no tests for 17 months and the United States could have detected it if they had. Mr. Reagan asserted at first that the Russians had conducted a number of tests just before they began the moratorium, but officials of his own administration have disowned the statement — another instance in which this unreliable president misled the public deliberately or did not know what he was talking about.

Mr. Reagan stayed out of the moratorium because he wanted to keep on testing; he ordered at least 20 explosions underground while the Russians observed the moratorium. Some administration officials conceded that they wanted to keep testing in order to develop new weapons — for example, the X-ray laser that would be a vital component of Mr. Reagan's "star wars" scheme.

On the eve of the Iceland summit, however, Mr. Reagan wrote to Barry Goldwater, the Republican chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, to say he was "committed to the ultimate attainment of a total ban on nuclear testing" and was "determined to take practical steps in the near future toward this goal."

That cynical letter clearly was a stalling device aimed at congressional defeat of an amendment that had passed the House, 234 to 155, and would have withheld funds for nuclear tests above the yield of one kiloton for a year starting Jan. 1, 1987. The Reagan letter had the desired political effect. The amendment was killed.

As for those "practical steps in the near future," Mr. Reagan told Mr. Goldwater that he would submit the new Senate for ratification of the long-withheld Threshold Test Ban Treaty and the Peaceful Nuclear Explosions Treaty — but with "an appropriate reservation... that would ensure they would not take effect until effectively verifiable." That makes ratification all but meaningless, since the administration claims the treaties are not now "effectively verifiable," and since Moscow has refused to renegotiate them.

But Mr. Reagan — especially after having shot himself in the foot with his Iran arms dealing — may no longer be a free agent on nuclear testing. Already 130 members of the House, including a few Republicans and such influential Democrats as Chairman Lee Hamilton of the Intelligence Committee, Les Aspin and Thomas Foley, the new majority leader, have written the president urging him to stop testing and start negotiating for a test ban.

In the background, congressmen are already discussing another appropriations amendment, modeled on last year's, that would deny for nuclear tests of military weapons. Such an amendment will get a more sympathetic hearing in the newly Democratic Senate, and will be opposed this time by a president severely weakened, not just by the Iran scandal but also by the scandalously botched negotiations at Reykjavik.

The New York Times

'Stories Like Mine Are Not Uncommon'

The writer is an Afghan refugee whose name is withheld to protect a family still in Afghanistan.

I AM neither a writer nor a historian but a victim of torture who was forced to leave Afghanistan, which the Soviet Union invaded on Dec. 27, 1979.

That evening, the blue skies of Kabul were blackened by bombs and missiles. Nine hours later, the fighting died down and the leader of the new regime, Babrak Karmal, addressed our nation. Two days later, the KGB began establishing secret prisons.

President Karmal declared that all political prisoners would be freed. But even as a Soviet camera crew filmed the release of inmates from Pule Charkhi prison, the largest in the country, a new generation of political prisoners were escorted in through a different door.

My turn came in early 1980. An agent of KJHAD, the state security services, came to my office. We left for Sedarat, an interrogation center, in a Russian Volga car. I was shoved into the back seat of the car, sandwiched between two armed Russians. I was thrown into an empty, windowless cell with a concrete floor. I stayed there for 15 hours without food or water.

When the door finally opened, two Russians and an Afghan entered and began to interrogate me. They accused me of working for the Central Intelligence Agency and ordered me to talk. When I protested and pleaded my innocence, I was punched, kicked and slammed into the wall. Additional denials were followed by more blows. Then they began to grind their teeth against my face. Two hours later, they stopped and left me lying on the floor.

My first portion of food came 24 hours later, a piece of bread and a small bowl of soup. For the five days I was locked in the cell, the only visitors I had were my torturers, who came at midnight. On the sixth day, I was taken to Pule Charkhi prison. My cell was a five foot square (2.3-square-meter) box, with no windows or ventilation. It was to be my home for 10 months.

Beatings, electric shocks, cigarette burns — these were the techniques of my captors. Weak prisoners and King Fahd agree that an "oil price war" would entail the risk that Iran might retaliate militarily? And did the White House or State Department reaffirm the U.S. commitment to defend the Gulf states?

Did the administration confer with executives of the Aramco partners to formulate a pricing strategy? Once oil prices had fallen below \$10 per barrel, did the Reagan administration work with Saudi Arabia and Iran to devise a plan approved at the August and October OPEC meetings to raise and stabilize oil prices?

And did King Fahd dismiss Sheikh Yamani and confine him to Saudi Arabia (after the Iran scandal broke) because he feared that Sheikh Yamani would expose the U.S.-Saudi "oil price war" strategy? Perhaps the congressional committees investigating the Iran arms deals can explore these questions. Certainly Vice President Bush, Secretary of State George Shultz, Treasury Secretary James Baker, Energy Secretary Herbert Hoover and former White House aide Michael Deaver (who now represents Saudi Arabia) ought to be called to testify under oath about what they know concerning administration policy on oil prices and Saudi oil decisions. They ought to be asked whether the United States joined with Saudi Arabia to wage an "oil price war" against Iran during the period in which the White House was trading arms for hostages.

The writer, assistant director of the Citizens-Labor Energy Coalition, contributed this to The Washington Post.

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The writer, assistant director of the Citizens-Labor Energy Coalition, contributed this to The Washington Post.

It Looks Like an Oil War Against Iran

By Edwin S. Rothschild

This is the second of two articles.

WASHINGTON — From June through August 1985, executives of Exxon, Chevron, Texaco and Mobil met in Paris in Aramco, the U.S. joint venture with Saudi Arabia, and have often been used as an arm of U.S. foreign policy — were reportedly huddling with Sheikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani and other Saudi officials, looking for a way to increase Saudi production and ensure substantial profits to the companies that would have to sustain lower profits on their crude oil production.

On Sept. 13, 1985, Sheikh Yamani announced in London that Saudi Arabia would increase production. He said the kingdom was prepared, as U.S. Energy Secretary John H. Garley had suggested two months earlier, to increase output to 9 million barrels a day. Sheikh Yamani, although he privately disagreed with this "price war strategy," warned that prices (which had been above \$25 per barrel) could fall to \$18.

In March 1986, when it looked as if the price decline was stalled, the Aramco companies met with Saudi officials and reportedly demanded additional price discounts. These discounts gave the Aramco partners the lowest priced crude in the market, enabling them to raise Saudi production from 4 to 6 million barrels per day by August and to drive world oil prices down below \$10 per barrel.

Worried that the oil price drop would spur Iran to attacks on the Gulf oil states and anger U.S. producers, the administration sent George Bush to the region in April to reaffirm U.S. political, economic and

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LETTER

When Children Are Shot

I am disappointed by your coverage of recent brutalities by Israeli forces against Palestinians. While the problems of Lieutenant Colonel Oliver North get ample front-page coverage, the shooting of Palestinian youngsters is covered summarily.

The Israeli government has used the excuse of preserving its "security" to carry out all kinds of illegal land seizures and systematically violate the rights of the Palestinian people. When Israeli forces shoot and kill children, is it second-class news?

LEONI DE VRIES, Amsterdam.

IN OUR PAGES, 75 AND 50 YEARS AGO

1911: Russia and Jews

ST. PETERSBURG — Count Stanbock-Fermor, marshal of the nobility of Kherson, is inviting the Zemstvo to cease to purchase machines produced in America. The boycott is recommended in retaliation for the notice given by President W.H. Taft for abrogation in 1913 of the treaty of 1832 regulating commercial and other dealings with Russia, in view of the refusal of the St. Petersburg Government to permit the entry of naturalized American citizens of Jewish birth into Russian territory, despite the fact that they possess an American passport. The Russian excuse for excluding these U.S. citizens is that their presence is undesirable because of many instances that are relatives of political agitators or have themselves dabbled in political troubles.

1936: Chiang Is Freed

NANKING — Marshal Chiang Kai-shek has arrived at Nanking by airplane after his unconditional release (on Dec. 25) from a captivity that had lasted 13 days. He was greeted at Nanking by 300,000 citizens cheering and waving the Chinese national flag. Two hours after Chiang's arrival, Chang Hsueh-liang flew into Nanking. The young general, who detained Marshal Chiang at Stanfu, will be pardoned rather than punished, according to Minister of War Ho Ying-ching. Chiang told the Nanking government that Chang, after demanding that Chiang call for the Kuomintang to cease hostilities against the Communists. On this he had declined to negotiate with his captor. Chang had ended by giving in.

# 1986: Hope, Sorrow and Fear

This year brought a mix of emotions, reflected in news photographs from around the world. Dictators were forced out in the Philippines and Haiti. Soviet dissidents were set free in Berlin and Gorky. A U.S. aid scheme began to unravel when a plane was shot down over Nicaragua. Americans mourned when, for the first time, astronauts died during a mission. Bombs exploded in some cities, such as Paris, while warplanes screamed over others, such as Tripoli. In South Africa, there were more deaths as the anti-apartheid fight continued.



Corazon C. Aquino of the Philippines signaling victory after being named president in February.



Libyan militiamen shooting anti-American slogans over the corpse of a man killed in a U.S. air raid on Tripoli in April.



Mourners carrying the coffin of an anti-apartheid activist killed by vigilantes in May during unrest in Alexandra, a black township north of Johannesburg.



The rocket boosters of the space shuttle Challenger trailing away as the craft exploded in January. Seven astronauts were killed.



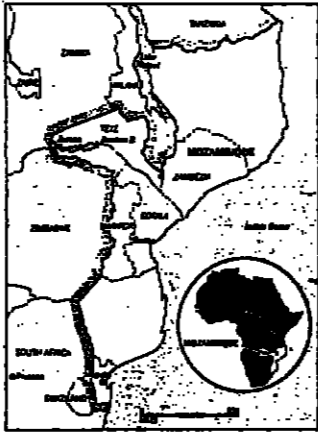
Engene Hasenfus being led away by Nicaraguan soldiers after his plane was shot down in October.



Anatoli B. Shcharansky, left, with Richard R. Burt, the U.S. ambassador to West Germany, after being released in February.

## In Shift, Malawi Will Aid Mozambican Refugees

**By Blaine Harden**  
*Washington Post Service*  
**DEDZA, Malawi** — For two years, the displaced from Mozambique's civil war have been walking, sometimes limping, into this small country across an unguarded border.  
Some refugees come with supplicating sores on their backs, courtesy, refugees say, of South African-supported rebels who press them into service as pack animals. Others walk across the border hungry and naked, courtesy, refugees say, of Mozambican troops who stripped them of food, furniture, cooking pots, shoes and, sometimes, their trousers.  
The common possessions of these people who have nothing are memories of relatives and friends shot in the cross fire between the warring parties.  
Until recently, the official response of Malawi, which maintains full diplomatic relations and strong economic ties with South Africa, was to pretend to the outside world that the 70,000 Mozambicans were not in the country.  
The first 20,000 or so moved in with relatives or built huts close to the border. They slept in Malawi at night and many walked back to Mozambique during the day to tend their fields.  
But in the past year, as rebels have escalated the war, crops near the border have been destroyed or stolen by soldiers of both sides. Hungry refugees began roaming around Malawi, knocking on church doors at night, begging for food, clothes and shelter.  
One clergyman said his congregation raised money to help the refugees, but insisted that it be distributed away from the church. "The sisters were very nervous about political complications," he said.  
President Hastings Kamuzu Banda, who stands alone in black Africa in his determination to maintain friendly and economical relations with South Africa, chose not to tell his people about the refugees.  
Denial of the Mozambicans, however, is drawing to an end. According to aid officials, Malawi can no longer afford to keep quiet about the flood of destitute people into its southern territory, a region that, even without any refugees, is among the poorest and most densely populated in Africa.  
"We couldn't contain the situation," a Malawian official said. "It is beyond the resources of this country."  
The official, who asked not to be identified, said that the government ordered the Malawi Red Cross in August to make a quiet appeal for international assistance.



Malawi's reluctance to acknowledge the obvious and accept outside refugee assistance are symptomatic of the country's unbecomingly and, in many ways, unavoidable involvement in Mozambique's civil war.

Malawi's reluctance to acknowledge the obvious and accept outside refugee assistance are symptomatic of the country's unbecomingly and, in many ways, unavoidable involvement in Mozambique's civil war.  
That war is widely perceived across Africa as far more than just another civil conflict. It is viewed as a moral contest that pits agents of white-ruled South Africa against the democratic values of black-ruled nations.  
The rebel Mozambican National Resistance, with the support of South Africa, has stepped up its crippling attacks on government-held areas in the past year and now claims to control most of Mozambique outside major towns. To support Mozambique's army, Zimbabwe has committed about 12,000 soldiers, some to fight and some to guard vital rail lines that serve much of southern Africa.  
The war has wrought havoc in much of Mozambique, killing an estimated 100,000 people in the past year and causing \$4 billion worth of damages, according to the Mozambican government.  
The UN refugee agency says there now are 600,000 displaced people inside the country, and more than 200,000 Mozambicans have fled to neighboring countries. Malawi, by far the smallest of these countries, has attracted the most refugees.  
Malawi juts into Mozambique, so its southern half is flanked on both the east and west by some of the fiercest fighting. While Malawi adamantly claims to be neutral and uninvolved in that war, its neighbors say they do not believe it.  
The leaders of Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe have been critical for years of Malawi's close ties to South Africa. This fall they denounced the country for alleged support of the Mozambican rebels by allowing the Mozambicans to use Malawian territory as a base.  
In a September meeting with Mr. Banda, leaders of the three nations threatened to cut landlocked Malawi's transport routes to the sea unless support of the rebels was halted.  
According to diplomats, clergyman and aid officials who have

## VATICAN: Rifts Between U.S. Catholics and Rome, and in the U.S. Church Itself

(Continued from Page 1)  
doesn't have many sanctions against them. It's harder to frighten them."  
If the changes wrought by the Second Vatican Council in 1962-65 produced ferment and turmoil all over the world, the American church went through additional transformations.  
Old ethnic enclaves slowly broke up, and millions of American Catholics were born from roots. Parochial schools tied to the ethnic parishes declined.  
Throughout this century, moreover, the educational levels of American Catholics have dramatically risen, leading to a more inquisitive and, in some cases, more skeptical flock.  
Above all, there were the cultural and sexual revolutions of the 1960s, which coincided with the Vatican Council.  
The Reverend Thomas Herron of Philadelphia, an official of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, the Vatican body charged with safeguarding orthodoxy, argued that the Vatican Council's liberalizing effects are often confused with the far broader upheaval in American society.  
"People tend to blame the council for many things that had far more to do with the counterculture," he said. "We are still dealing with the effects of an enormous revolution that we still do not fully understand."  
"What is clear," he said, "is that the 1960s involved a revolt against authority, and few institutions had such a powerful sense of authority as the Catholic Church. So the rebellion in the church may have been much stronger than against almost any other institution."  
Even Vatican officials who see serious problems facing the American church today acknowledge its continued strength and the enormous energy of its members.  
"We understand that the Catholic Church in the United States is one of the most dynamic churches in the world," said Archbishop Jan Schotte, a Belgian who is secretary-general of the Synod of Bishops and a key Vatican official.  
Pope John Paul II, who will visit the United States next year, shares this view, said Joaquin Navarro Valls, the chief Vatican spokesman. "The pope gets labeled as an anti-American, and it's simply not true," said Mr. Navarro.  
In a formal sense at least, American Catholics are unusually faithful compared with their counterparts in many Western European countries.  
Attendance rates at Mass among American Catholics, despite a decline in the 1960s and early 1970s, are still among the highest in the world. Some estimates show that about half of the Catholics in America attend Mass on an average Sunday.

At the same time, the donations of American Catholics have helped to create an extraordinary network of institutions, including schools, hospitals and publications.  
Yet the very dynamism of the American church helps fuel the controversies within it. As descendants of an immigrant tradition that struggled to preserve the faith on sometimes hostile territory, American Catholics are unusually fierce in holding on to their Catholic identity.  
"Being a Catholic is like being a member of a family," said Lisa Sowle Cahill, a liberal Catholic who is an associate professor of Christian ethics at Boston College. "You have to be pushed out in order to break with it. It's not like any other voluntary organization."  
James P. McFadden, president of the National Committee of

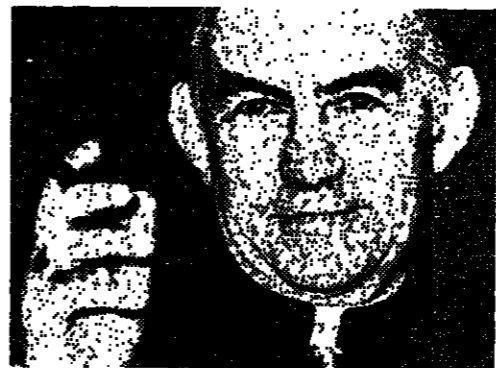
that those who are less than orthodox are trying to hijack the true church; liberals like Ms. Cahill complain that traditionalists want to throw them out altogether.  
Such talk underlines one point of agreement between Vatican officials and their critics in the American church: that the conflict is not only between liberal American Catholics and the Vatican, but also within the American church.  
"Americans are used to writing their congressman and getting action," said the Reverend Diarmuid Martin, an Irishman who is an official of the Pontifical Council for the Family. "So American Catholics who are angry write the Vatican for action."  
Liberals, skeptical of centralized authority and without much hope of finding a sympathetic ear in the Vatican, tend to write fewer mis-

Cormick, a professor of Christian ethics at the University of Notre Dame, warned against a static view of orthodoxy.  
In an important statement of the liberal theological position in America, Father McCormick recently wrote in a Jesuit weekly that "one of theology's most important roles is a critical one, a distancing from past formulations and the proposal of new ones more adequate to the circumstances and insights of the time."  
Because of the United States' democratic tradition, and because Roman Catholics have always been a religious minority in a predominantly Protestant nation, Catholics in the United States have been among the stoutest defenders inside the church of the idea of "freedom of conscience."

"Democracy is a wonderful formula for political society, but the church is not a democracy," he said. "Sometimes the church simply has to say unpopular things."  
Certainly some of the things that the church has been saying about sexuality and the role of women are unpopular among many American Catholics, who cannot understand why a more "modern" attitude toward women's roles would shake the foundations of the church, or why the birth control pill — invented, as it happened, by a Roman Catholic — should necessarily undermine the entire structure of Catholic moral teaching.  
The question of women's rights has special resonance in the United States, not only because of the strength of its women's movement but also because women — particularly nuns — have played an unusually large role in building American Catholicism. The American bishops have encountered difficulty in drafting a pastoral letter on the subject, not only because of divisions among them but also because of fears of appearing to move beyond Vatican teaching.  
The sexual revolution may have shaken the Catholic Church more than most other American institutions because the church's members cleaved so faithfully — and for so long — to traditional morality, especially on birth control.  
In a study published in 1963, the Reverend Andrew M. Greeley, an American author and sociologist, found substantial acceptance among Catholics of the church's birth control teaching. But between 1963 and 1974, astonishing changes took place: opposition to birth control, for example, fell from 52 percent to 13 percent, to divorce from 46 to 25 percent.  
The revolt against the church's sexual teaching was paralleled by a decline in church attendance, and Father Greeley argues that the church's ban on contraception was the major cause of this disaffection.  
In a carefully worded speech at a bishops' synod in Rome in 1980, Archbishop John R. Quinn of San Francisco said he supported the church's teaching on birth control, but added a pointed reference to widespread dissent. "Unless one is willing to dismiss the attitude of all these people as obduracy, ignorance or bad will," he said, "this widespread opposition must give rise to serious concern."  
But most Vatican officials, and especially the pope, argue that American Catholic dissenters are merely deceiving themselves by claiming that sinful acts are somehow not sinful.  
"Man commits sin without calling by name what he does," the pope said in his Easter sermon this year. "But this is not the way of liberation. This is only the way of falsifying the truth."  
NEXT: A more universal church.

**'Unless one is willing to dismiss dissent on birth control as obduracy, ignorance or bad will, this widespread opposition must give rise to serious concern.'**

— John R. Quinn



## Alcohol Sales Fall By 40% in Soviet

**MOSCOW** — Soviet alcohol sales fell nearly 40 percent in the first 11 months of 1986 following an announcement of Mikhail S. Gorbachev's campaign to cut heavy drinking, according to official figures released Friday.  
The Central Statistics Board said that the fall in sales had led to a 25-percent drop in the crime rate, a 20-percent decline in road accidents and about a 30-percent drop in absenteeism at work.  
Tass, which carried the data, said that the improved work attendance had almost compensated for losses to the state through the fall in liquor sales. Mr. Gorbachev raised alcohol prices and limited the opening hours of establishments selling alcohol.

Catholic Laymen, a conservative group based in New York, agrees, albeit from an entirely different perspective. He argues that one of the church's gravest problems is that dissidents refuse to leave.  
"You don't need to be Catholic to be Catholic anymore," he said. "If you dissent, you don't get out. That's the problem. Martin Luther looks like a prince compared to these people because he knew when it was time to go."  
Traditionalists have been heartened — and liberals worried — by John Paul's appointments to the hierarchy of the American church, symbolized by New York's archbishop, Cardinal John O'Connor, and Boston's archbishop, Cardinal Bernard Law. The "John Paul bishops" now number about 90, and the steady appointment of more like-minded bishops is expected to push the American church in a more conservative direction.  
However, a moderate to liberal coalition led by Cardinal Joseph Bernardin of Chicago still holds a substantial majority in the National Conference of Catholic Bishops.  
One result of strong loyalties is that anger and hurt are pronounced on both sides of the battle lines in the American church. Traditionalists like Mr. McFadden complain

sives, though there has recently been a flow of letters of protest.  
Some liberal Catholics worry that the traditionalists' love of letter writing has given the Vatican what Ms. Cahill called a "distorted" view of the American church, because the traditionalists often focus on the most extreme and bizarre forms of dissent.  
One Vatican official, a European who reads many of the letters of complaint, said he believed there was some truth in this assertion. But he added that he was nonetheless surprised "at some of the amazing things that seem to go on in American church."  
He cited the example of a book written by an American diocese for preparing couples for marriage. Its section on the spiritual lives of couples, he said, began with the question, "Have you ever thought of praying in the nude?"  
"Is that really central to the spiritual lives of couples?" he asked. "Did it really have to be the first question?"  
The root question in nearly all the disputes involving the American Catholics is the nature of church teachings and the extent to which the church can permit dissent and disobedience.  
The Reverend Richard A. Mc-

Liberal American Catholics like Bishop James W. Malone of Youngstown, Ohio, a former president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, are at the front of the battle for "collegiality," a diffusion of responsibility to the bishops and the national churches. And theologians like Father Curran are leading the battle for the rights of theologians to dissent.  
"The Catholic tradition has always emphasized that human reason can reflect on faith," said Father Curran, a professor at the Catholic University of America in Washington. "Any tradition that says that faith and human reason can't contradict each other has the tools to deal with these problems."  
But to some Vatican officials, as well as to many conservative Catholics in the United States, the American liberals often seem intent on watering down the church's more unpopular teachings.  
Rocco Buttiglione, an Italian who is one of the leading thinkers of Comunione e Liberazione, a group that supports John Paul's approach, echoes the private comments of many Vatican officials when he says Americans often confuse political structures with the church.

ARTS / LEISURE

Skirting the Chinese Ceramic Riddle

LONDON — Sometimes surprisingly little is known about categories of objets d'art that seem familiar only because they are often mentioned by name.

Celadon is now synonymous with pale-green porcelain from China. Early Blue-and-White, to collectors of Chinese art, conjures up the image of the large dishes and vases

SOUREN MELIKIAN

decorated with bold designs of dragons and phoenixes, or whirling formal motifs in deep blue enamels on a white ground.

Yet a three-volume set that Sotheby's Publications has just issued leaves no doubt that the main sources on 14th-century Celadon and Blue-and-White have barely been tapped, and that one of the great riddles of Far Eastern and Middle Eastern cultural history remains unsolved: Why Chinese pottery styles emerged that broke with the Far Eastern past and betrayed a strong Middle Eastern impact.

The subject of the book, "Chinese Ceramics in the Topkapı Sarayı Museum, Istanbul: A Complete Catalogue," is at the heart of the mystery although it does not address the question directly.

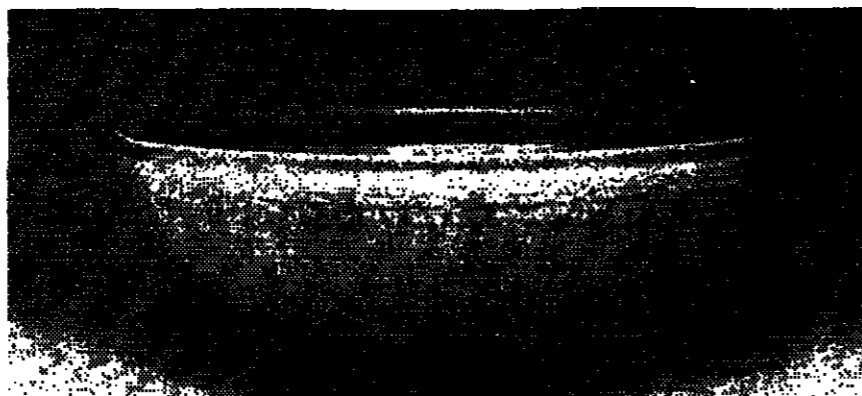
Its stated purpose is the cataloging of an extraordinary collection of Chinese ceramics, more than 10,000 pieces, of which about one-tenth is on view in Istanbul. It took three large quarto volumes weighing 17 and a half kilograms (38.5 pounds), with 1,384 pages and 5,000 plates (200 in color), to do justice to the entire collection.

Even if one leaves out Volume 3, which covers the later periods, Sotheby's Publications has made a sensational coup with its catalogue raisonné, reproducing 346 Celadons from 14th- and 15th-century China (plus four Southeast Asian Celadons of the same period) in Volume 1, and almost as many Blue-and-White, also of the late Yuan and Ming periods, in Volume 2.

The photographic documentation alone dramatically expands our visual knowledge, even though, as John Ayers, a former keeper of the Far Eastern department at the Victoria and Albert Museum, assures us in the introduction, it reserves few surprises for the specialist.

However, surprising scholars is one thing, and it is another to surprise the art lover by giving consistent sequences of color plates of the highest quality, when previously only black-and-white photographs in obscure learned journals were available.

Regarding Celadons, the effect is spectacular. For the first time in publication history, one gets a continuous development of the



Celadon dish with lobed pattern.



Large Celadon vase.

patterns and shapes evolved in the years when China was ruled by a dynasty of Mongol origin called Yuan in Chinese, Regina Crahl, in her excellent survey of the material, notes the "bold shapes and vigorous designs in the Yuan dynasty."

She is the first art historian to stress the existence of a specific Yuan style, using as

dating evidence pieces such as the big vase in the Percival David Foundation in London, dated 1327, and a group of dishes carrying small characters in a script devised by a Tibetan lama, Pagpa (1235-1280), who exercised considerable influence over the Mongol rulers. These characters, occasionally molded in very small size as part of the decoration in the central area of dishes, were used only for a short while at that period.

Crahl has not actually attempted to characterize the Yuan style other than by repeatedly calling it vigorous. One of its most obvious innovations is not just the monumentality due to sheer size but the sculptural quality of its decoration, achieved through the use of low relief or of deeply incised motifs.

Occasionally, the two are combined, as in the admirable dragon dish (TKS15/260). Yet another technique was the use of applied biscuit relief in delicate shades of light maroon on the green glazed body. The biscuit motifs are set, in contrast with the sheen of the Celadon, and have a crispness that further increases their sculptural appearance. The effect is foreign to the Chinese tradition, inducing one to look for a possible source of inspiration in the other major cultural sphere ruled at that time by the descendants of Genghis Khan — Iran.

This is all the more tempting as so many of the patterns and shapes are either borrowed from Iranian models or heavily influenced by them. That matter is not discussed in the Sotheby's Publications catalogue, even though several plates show typical instances of such motifs — the five-lobed rosettes in biscuit relief on the dragon dish (TKS15/239) or on the celadon dish (TKS15/621). The main pattern on the latter, with almond-shaped lobes, is an age-old Middle Eastern design obtained by incising

intersecting circles with dividers. Indeed, the very idea of geometric decoration, or even of a repeat pattern creating a rhythmical effect, is alien to the aesthetics of Chinese pottery in the previous Song period.

No less striking are innovations such as the raised roundels at the bottom of large bowls, which Crahl calls "plaques." She tentatively explains their introduction by saying that it was necessary to bore a hole in the bases of large bowls to prevent cracks from developing during and after firing. A more convincing reason might be the imitation of the "prints" — or "bosses," as such raised "plaques" should be called — encountered in metalwork from the Middle East. The list of Iranian-derived motifs could be considerably lengthened.

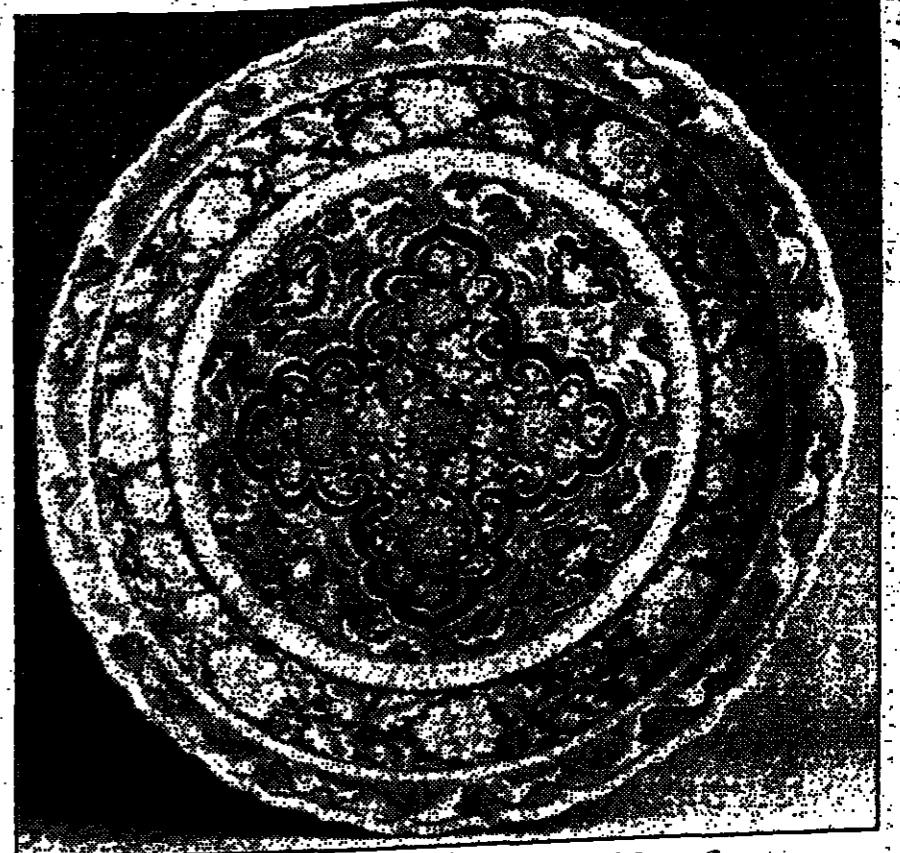
Similar remarks can be made about the splendid dishes, vases and bottles of the Yuan discussed in Volume 2. Here, additional questions arise, deepening the mystery surrounding the emergence of the Yuan styles in Celadon and Blue-and-White pottery. Some questions concern the decorative repertoire. Motifs such as the so-called phoenix birds have no precedent in Chinese pottery. Seen from the Middle Eastern angle, these have an outlandish appearance and are often cited as instances of Chinese influence when found in Middle Eastern decoration.

But, seen from China, they look terribly Middle Eastern, as Crahl confirmed in an interview. A similar problem is raised by landscape painting in early Blue-and-White pottery. It is strikingly different from Chinese painting in terms of composition and brushwork, and comes much closer to Iranian aesthetic. Yet, some of the motifs have no parallel in Iran and must be indigenous to China.

It should be stressed at this point that early Blue-and-White has a specific decorative repertoire most of which is not found in Yuan Celadon. That even applies to formal motifs such as the Iranian-style escutcheons designed as polylobed cusped arches pointed toward the center of a dish.

As the use of large-scale blue decoration comes abruptly into the decoration of Chinese pottery art, the implication seems to be that the Yuan Blue-and-White style, and probably the Yuan Celadon style, were developed under the influence of a hybrid cultural milieu in circumstances that await elucidation. The fact that this blue is referred to in the Chinese tradition as "Mohammedan blue" is significant — the Mohammedan world, to 14th- and 15th-century China, meant essentially Iran.

Indeed, the inscriptions calligraphed in the Arabic alphabet on early Blue-and-White porcelain point to an Iranian connection.



An early Ming Blue-and-White dish in leaf decoration.

Surprisingly, scholarly literature, including Sotheby's catalogue, has so far omitted to note that nearly all the inscriptions in the Arabic alphabet found on early Chinese Blue-and-White that do not reproduce Koranic verses or utterances attributed to the prophet Mohammed (Hadith), are Persian verses. Some are by great poets from Iran, which implies that the vessels were intended for a highly literate public.

Disappointingly little is yielded by the Topkapı archival documentation regarding this crucial early period, partly because references to specific objects are too vague to allow identification but largely because most of the early Chinese pottery did not reach Istanbul directly.

The taste for Celadons and Blue-and-White came to the Turks from the culture on which they drew so heavily in every other respect, that of Iran. Many pieces were looted from the Iranian capital, Tabriz, in the course of Iranian-Turkish wars, and others were received as royal presents from Iran and sometimes even Islamic India. The early owners' marks drilled on the underside of several dishes are Iranian, such as that of one Behbud, whose name crops up eight times in the collection of Blue-and-White now in the Muze-ye Iran Bastan in Tehran, and could

also be read on a large unpublished dish in the Ekmazari Gallery, London.

Blue-and-White porcelain is frequently depicted in Iranian painting and mentioned in Persian historical sources and poetry. So are Celadon wares. Unfortunately, neither Persian nor Arabic sources have been used in the original by contributors discussing problems of terminology and epigraphy in Sotheby's catalogue. The section discussing words such as Faghfuri, which refers almost certainly to Celadons in 15th- and 16th-century literature in Iran, suffers from this.

This means that the fundamental problem regarding the origins of the Yuan styles as well as the lesser questions concerning the identifications of early owners will have to be dealt with afresh. This in no way belittles Sotheby's Publications' achievement. Its three-volume set has opened many doors by building up the most magnificent pages of Chinese Ming and Yuan pottery obtainable anywhere.

If proof was needed, the book edited by John Ayers, with Regina Crahl as the main contributor, shows that catalogues raisonnés, when brilliantly produced, are the most important contribution that scholarship can make to the understanding of art.

'Coastal Disturbances' Topped New York Stage in 1986

By Frank Rich  
New York Times Service  
NEW YORK — "New York without a theater district might as well be Newark," cracked a taxi driver in the comedy that opened 1986, Terrence McNally's "It's Only a Play."

to be found in a living-room-sized auditorium 30-odd blocks north of Shubert Alley. The year's boldest musical theater experiment, Martha Clarke's "Vienna: Lusthaus," was born in the tiny St. Clement's, in the shadows of the Broadway periphery, before finding a berth at the Public Downtown. The most original performer Broadway has seen in ages, Robert Lindsay of "Me and My Girl," turned up at the neighborhood's most widely despised venue — the antiseptic hotel auditorium that usurped three venerable playhouses — and, like it or not, legitimized the Marquis as a theater.

New York theater in a state of upheaval and transition. Except for the importing of English musicals, the commercial theater establishment is steadily relinquishing its traditional producing role: Broadway has seen only two new plays since the current season began in early June — one inevitable (Neil Simon's welcome "Broadway Bound"), the other a gift (Joseph Papp's transfer from the Public of Reinhold Povo's promising debut, "Cuba and His Teddy Bear"). As long as this Broadway power vacuum widens, the decentralization of New York and American theater will accelerate, ideally to the theatrical culture's ameliorated health.

either commercial or nonprofit impresarios. In "Coastal Disturbances," a play about lovers on a beach, Tina Howe makes us look at couplings and uncouplings anew because she has the wisdom (and the talent) to see men and women, from the very young to the very old, as if they were as changeable as New England summer weather and just as resistant to scientific prognostication. Howe's language, plush with the imagery that so many modern playwrights have ceded to novelists, celebrates her characters even when they behave selfishly. That intoxicating rush of pure empathy is enhanced by the beautifully designed and acted production directed by Carole Rothman at the Second Stage.

Off-Broadway's "Vienna: Lusthaus" can't be accurately called a musical — it had a score, dancing, a script but no songs — and yet it illuminates possible future directions for the musical theater. Not unlike Stephen Sondheim and James Lapine in "Sunday in the Park With George," the director Martha Clarke employed abstract painterly images and movement, as well as music (by Richard Peaslee), and fragmented dialogue (by the historian Charles Mee Jr.) to dramatize the dawn of Modernism.



Jonathan Silverman, Neil Simon's alter ego in "Broadway Bound."

But if "Sunday in the Park" transported audiences into the contemplative aesthetics of post-Impressionist, late 19th-century France, "Vienna: Lusthaus" was a leap into the vortex of the nearly contemporary but far more neurotic Modernist catalysis of Sigmund Freud and Sigmund Freud and Schiele. An erotic and finally terrifying vision of Western civilization, walking into the chancel house "Vienna: Lusthaus" had the precision, power and intellectual ballast too often lacking in auteurist contemporary theater.

While the more conventional political plays of 1986, particularly those developed at institutional theaters beyond New York, might suggest that the Group Theater was the last word in polemical dramaturgy, George C. Wolfe's "Colored Museum" and "Erio Bogosian's "Drinking in America" revealed more daring theater minds at work. Wolfe has brought us a series of sketches that, as acted by an explosive young company, uncovers "the madness and colored contradictions" of black American history and culture without letting blacks (male and female) or whites off the hook. Bogosian's sole vignettes formed an alternately terrifying and hilarious moral of frightened American men (rich and poor, white and black) whose gluttonous hunger for power and its addictive accoutrements (drink, drugs, sex, money) knows no limit.

"The House of Blue Leaves," the most notable revival of the season, seems as up-to-the-minute as "Drinking in America." John Guare's all-American nobodies, circa 1965, are cousins of Bogosian's desperate characters;

they are driven bananas by a society that preaches Hollywood-style fame as salvation and then seditiously denies that supposed sanctification to all but an arrogant few.

It's another kind of performance style entirely that Robert Lindsay has reinvented in "Me and My Girl," a revised reconstruction of a 1937 West End musical. A comic actor who can sing, dance, flip his bowler hat with his forehead and leer down a woman's dress all at the same time, this English star makes audiences think of everyone from Kelly to Chaplin to Bobby Clark. Musicals aside, 1986 is like every year in that one theatergoer's second-best could be another's best. In addition to "Blue Leaves," audiences could choose happily among the distinguished revivals of "It's Only a Play," "Sweet Charity," Joe Orton's "Loot," the Royal Shakespeare Company's "Nicholas Nickleby," the Hecht-MacArthur "Front Page" and Spalding Gray's monologue, "Swimming to Cambodia." In a special category is "Wild Honey," Michael Frayn's ingenious adaptation of Chekhov's first extant play, which must eventually be seen in a more sensitive production than the one that brought an energized, at times over-energized, Ian McKellen back to Broadway.

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I NEED TO TELL SOMEBODY ABOUT... UH... ABOUT A MINUTE... UH... HELLO, SIR? WHAT? NO, I'M NOT TALKING TO ANYONE, SIR. NO, SIR... NO... NO! AIEE! BLAM!
JOANIE, I'M KIND OF BUSY.
ME TOO. WAITING HAVE LUNCH ANYWAY?
GAVEAU

Statistics Index table with columns for AMEX, NYSE, etc.

SAURDAY-SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27-28, 1986

ECONOMIC SCENE

A Year of Gloom and Doom Hints at More of the Same

By LEONARD SILK

NEW YORK — This has not been the jolliest of holiday seasons. Indeed, as the year draws to an end, the words about the U.S. economy are intensifying.

The concern is that America is de-industrializing and selling its assets to foreign holders.

Further, European countries are moving ahead extremely slowly, with unemployment hanging above 11 percent. Yet the efforts of the United States to coax the Europeans to expand their economies faster seem to be falling on deaf ears.

What concerns him, as well as many other analysts, is the steep decline in equity-debt ratios of U.S. corporations. Mr. Cutler points out that, as more and more corporations succumb to takeovers or successfully defend by repurchasing their own shares, the equity-debt ratios of these companies will shift from 2 to 1, down to 1 to 2, or even as low as 1 to 10 or 1 to 20.

Remington Boss Out There Pitching Kiam, the Global Salesman, Offers More Than Shavers

By Thomas J. Lueck

BRIDGEPORT, Connecticut — Just before Christmas, the old Remington Products plant here was swarming with thousands of electric shavers. And Victor Kiam, the chairman, marketing guru and sole stockholder of Remington, was an exhausted man.



Victor Kiam, chairman of Remington Products, on the production line in Bridgeport.

Remington's aggressive marketing and Mr. Kiam's television ads. "We've seen an enormous increase in sales, and Victor Kiam's ads have been a major factor," said Larry Irving, a senior buyer in charge of electric shavers for K mart, the nationwide U.S. retail chain.

Economists Forecast Further Decline of Dollar but Question Extent of Fall

By Barnaby J. Feder

NEW YORK — Fifteen months after the historic meeting at the Plaza Hotel in New York, where the United States and its major industrial partners agreed to drive the value of the dollar down, currency traders and economists are wondering where the governments of the industrial nations want to see exchange rates settle.

Currency Rates

Currency Rates table with columns for Country, Rate, etc.

Other Dollar Values table with columns for Country, Rate, etc.

Interest Rates

Interest Rates table with columns for Term, Rate, etc.

Asian Dollar Deposits table with columns for Term, Rate, etc.

U.S. Money Market Funds table with columns for Fund Name, Yield, etc.

Gold

Gold table with columns for Location, Price, etc.

Surplus Capacity Cited In European Projects for Satellite Broadcasting

By Rev. J. J. ...

LONDON — A new generation of satellite broadcasting projects, which could transform the viewing habits of Western Europe, will be ready for launch next year. But analysts question whether they will take off commercially.

Saudi Arabia Confirms Nazer As Oil Minister

By ...

JEDDAH — Hisham Nazer, named Saudi Arabia's acting oil minister when Sheikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani was dismissed on Oct. 29, has been formally appointed to the post, according to the Saudi Press Agency.

Peoples and Swarovski Acquire Zale

United Press International

TORONTO — Peoples Jewellers Ltd. and Swarovski International Holding AG of Zurich said Friday they had acquired a majority ownership of Texas-based Zale Corp. for \$574 million after months of bidding for the world's largest jewelry retailer.

Markets Closed

The only major world stock markets open Friday were those in the United States, Japan, France and Singapore. Elsewhere, markets remained closed for the Christmas holiday.

Advertisement for HARRY WINSTON of New York, featuring jewelry and watches.

Advertisement for THE VALUE LINE, providing investment information and stock analysis.





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Friday's NYSE Closing

Tables include the minimum prices up to the closing on Wall Street and do not reflect late trades elsewhere.

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U.S. Futures

Via The Associated Press

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Financial

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Stock Indexes

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Soviet Says Production Of Gas and Grain Rises

MOSCOW — Production of natural gas rose during 1986, and grain production was better than average, Tass news agency reported on Friday. It said that on Friday, gas production reached its target for the year of 672 billion cubic meters (873.6 billion cubic yards), and that an additional 12 billion cubic meters were expected to be produced by year's end.

Knudsen to Sell Business For Total of \$25 Million

LOS ANGELES — Knudsen Corp., the troubled dairy operator, said Friday it agreed to sell its Texas and Louisiana operations to Associated Milk Producers of Arlington, Texas, for \$25.5 million. Knudsen, which operates Knudsen and Formost dairies, has been liquidating assets since seeking protection from its creditors under Chapter 11 of federal bankruptcy laws in July.

CGE, IIT to Sign Accord On Worldwide Venture

PARIS — The French electronics group Cie. Generale d'Electricite and IIT Corp. of the United States are to sign an accord Tuesday in Brussels to create a worldwide telecommunications consortium, sources at IIT said Friday. The joint company, Teleglobe Communications NV, will have its headquarters in Amsterdam and will be controlled and directed by CGE. The consortium, expected to be the second-largest telecommunications group in the world and the leading group in cable manufacturing, will operate in 75 countries, including 15 in Europe, and will employ 150,000 people.

Bonn Vows to Fight U.S. Curbs On Imports of Machine Tools

BONN — The government will demand that the United States retract the restrictions it has placed on imports of machine tools from West Germany, an aide to Chancellor Helmut Kohl said in a newspaper interview Friday. Wolfgang Schauble, the cabinet-level official who is in charge of Mr. Kohl's chancellery, said in an interview with the Cologne Express that the U.S. move violated the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. Mr. Schauble said the government would not accept the U.S. move and would demand retraction of the curbs.

World Stock Markets

Table with columns: Market, High, Low, Open, High, Low, Close, Chg. Lists various world stock market data.

Dividends

Table with columns: Company, Per Annu, Pay Dec. Lists various dividend information.



The International Herald Tribune. Bringing the World's Most Important News to the World's Most Important Audience.

KIAM: Remington Boss, as a Global Salesman, Offers More Than Shavers

(Continued from first finance page) nics have been aggressively marketing new shaver models.

Bridgeport or another U.S. location if the product proved to be a long-term success.

'What we've got to do is find things that look great and really turn out to be great when you put them in the stores.'

—Victor Kiam, Chairman of Remington Products

Meanwhile, other ventures by Mr. Kiam and Remington promise to have a greater bearing on the company's growth.

One is a line of compact travel kits, equipped with combs, scissors and other utensils, that was introduced to U.S. consumers in 1985.

In a series of acquisitions, Mr. Kiam has also gained control of several small companies that were in trouble, sometimes in bankruptcy proceedings.

Cuts Expected At Nippon Steel

TOKYO — A strong yen, slumping exports and low domestic demand are forcing Nippon Steel Corp. to consider sharp cuts in its work force and production capacity, according to a company spokesman.

The business daily Nihon Keizai Shinbun said Nippon Steel would cut its work force by 30 percent and reduce capacity from an annual 33 million metric tons (36.3 million short tons) to 24 million.

Last month Nippon Steel predicted a parent company loss of 100 billion yen (\$617.28 million) in the year ending March 31, against last year's profit of 36.07 billion yen.

JAPAN: Trade Surplus Narrowed Again in November

(Continued from Page 2)

means export volume can slump while the dollar-denominated surplus rises. The yen has risen more than 20 percent against the dollar this year.

The consequent harm to Japan's manufacturing export companies, which drive the economy, has led the government to cut forecasts of a healthy 4-percent growth this fiscal year.

The Economic Planning Agency now believes 3.5 percent is possible, but most private forecasters would cut at least one percentage point off that prediction.

Government planners pin their hopes of recovery on their ability to persuade Japanese consumers to spend vast savings.

The Finance Ministry honored a government promise to put the state's finances in order and proposed on Thursday the tightest budget in 32 years for 1987-88, a mere 0.03-percent spending rise to

54.101 trillion yen (\$338 billion). Japan also revised this week a sweeping tax change aimed at curbing corporate and personal taxes.

The report attributed the low rise to the yen's appreciation against the dollar and to lower prices for crude oil.

Vehicle Exports Down Japan's exports of cars, trucks and buses fell 15.1 percent in November from a year earlier to 516,928 units, the sharpest decline on record, the Associated Press reported Friday from Tokyo.

The Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association said the decline followed a drop of 9.4 percent in October over the same month a year ago. November marked the fifth consecutive month of decline over 1985 exports.

Friday's AMEX Closing

Tables include the nationwide prices up to the closing on Wall Street and do not reflect late trades elsewhere. Via The Associated Press

Table with columns: 12 Month High/Low, Stock, Div. Yld. PE, % Chg. Includes various stock tickers and their performance.

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INTERNATIONAL FUNDS (Quotations Supplied by Funds Listed) 26 Dec. 1986

Large table listing various international funds with columns for fund name, share price, and other details. Includes sections for ALM Management, Fidelity, and others.



Small handwritten-style text at the bottom center of the page.

BUSINESS PROFILE / Joseph E. Antonini, President of K mart Corp.

Stock Boy Almost Makes It to the Top, but Crucial Challenges Lie Ahead

By Isidore Barnash
NEW YORK — Joseph E. Antonini could have stepped out of one of those classic American rags-to-riches tales...

ness have been so successful. After riding high in the 1970s, doubling its annual sales and stunning its competitors by opening as many as 250 stores a year, K mart began to lose ground in the 1980s...



Joseph E. Antonini, with one of his private-apparel lines.

Mr. Antonini joined the company right after his 1964 graduation from West Virginia University, where he had paid his tuition by forming his own dance band...

ish of not only promoting our prices vigorously but also making sure that the items we promoted and all the wanted ones were always in stock...

SCENE: Gloom and Doom in '86

(Continued from first finance page)
surely coming when many of these highly leveraged junk-bond issuers will be unable to generate the cash flows needed to service their enormous debts...

But it would be irresponsible to regard all these worries as unsolvable. Is there a way out of the morass? We shall consider possible solutions in another column.



Friday's OTC Prices
NASDAQ writes on a 4 p.m. New York time. Via The Associated Press

Table A: 12 Month High Low Stock Div. Yld. Sales in 1986 High Low 4 P.A.L. Chg. Net

Table B: 12 Month High Low Stock Div. Yld. Sales in 1986 High Low 4 P.A.L. Chg. Net

Table C: 12 Month High Low Stock Div. Yld. Sales in 1986 High Low 4 P.A.L. Chg. Net

Table D: 12 Month High Low Stock Div. Yld. Sales in 1986 High Low 4 P.A.L. Chg. Net

Table E: 12 Month High Low Stock Div. Yld. Sales in 1986 High Low 4 P.A.L. Chg. Net

Table F: 12 Month High Low Stock Div. Yld. Sales in 1986 High Low 4 P.A.L. Chg. Net

IAE Chosen to Supply New Type of Engine For Long-Range Airbus
The Associated Press
PARIS — International Aero Engines will supply a new type of engine for Airbus Industrie's planned A-340 long-range aircraft...

- ACROSS**
- Blanchard
  - White precursor
  - Bilani top
  - Instruments played like rattles
  - Adams or Gobe
  - Sanctions
  - Surround
  - President as painter
  - Crust for Colette
  - Expert
  - Kick Out of You
  - Matures
  - The Velvet Fog
  - Oversees
  - Symbol of Ra
  - Tropical climber
  - Leblanc's Lupin
  - President as another painter
  - Snooze
  - Cang or mob follower
  - Touches upon
  - Part of r.b.l.
  - NCO
  - Tokyo's one-time name
- DOWN**
- Nightwear for females?
  - Menu words
  - Privileged
  - Opponent of Luther
  - Pattern
  - Piscivorous raptors
  - Engrossed
  - Plato's portico
  - Sesame
  - Hypothetical protein molecule
  - New
  - Queries

### White House Moonlighters By Virginia P. Abelson

- ACROSS**
- Paul or Peter
  - Editor's note
  - Cartographer's creation in Cadiz
  - President as economist
  - Laquer
  - Residue
  - Daring deed
  - Weapons at St. Cyr
  - Balzac
  - Sprinkle or splash
  - Actress
  - Eklund
  - Hunting dog
  - Garaged
  - Muskie's home state
  - Maidenhair, e.g.
  - They loop the Loop
  - Mistake
  - President as Senator
  - Cabinet officer
  - Former money of Brazil
  - A Long
  - One, in Oberhausen
  - Exclamations of disbelief
- DOWN**
- British navy group
  - Garb
  - Carpenters' tools
  - "Is Born"
  - Bangkok money
  - Cornered
  - Fort in the news in 1961
  - Waste allowance
  - Separate Tables
  - Boors
  - Religious mentor
  - Unvarnished
  - Heraldic furs
  - Unit of weight in India
  - Dart
  - Graph
  - Carnival performer
  - Heat lightning
  - Increases
  - Eradicator
  - Straw hats
  - Scrip
  - Ferber's "Palace"
  - Approve
  - Hijacking, e.g.
  - Branches
  - Plum-pudding ingredient
  - Clay pigeon, e.g.
  - Novelist
  - Schreiber
  - Gold trims
  - Loire tributary
  - Cavatina's kin
  - Female gamete
  - Denomination
  - Army V.I.P.
  - It's urged by NOW
  - Cheer

© New York Times, edited by Eugene Malachuk.

- ACROSS**
- Busy agcy. of W.W.II
  - He wrote "My People"
  - Cambridge and Scarsdale
  - Plant parasite
  - D.D.E.'s command
  - President as baseball commissioner
  - Kisses, Truffaut film
  - Sprat's choice
  - Overhang
  - Cautious
  - Musical tone
  - Egyptian dancer
  - Wickerwork willow
  - Navy mail sta.
  - Option
  - President as football player
  - Tray
  - Emulate Mark Hopkins
  - Deserves
  - These might be holy
  - Yes
  - Bhs., e.g.
  - Foolish Things...
  - 1935 song
- DOWN**
- Subdivision
  - Encroachments
  - Like some testimony
  - President as author
  - Valuation
  - Bonzo, e.g.
  - A pancake
  - Double curve
  - Prefix for space
  - Hockey's Ross Trophy
  - Boors
  - Religious mentor

**RECITATIVE: Prose by James Merrill**  
 Edited and with an introduction by J.D. McClatchy. 202 pages. \$25; paperback, \$12.50. North Point Press, 850 Talbot Avenue, Berkeley, Calif. 94706.

Reviewed by Anthony Thwaite

IN his collection of miscellaneous prose, "Recitative," Philip Larkin was content to include two interviews with himself. In "Recitative," similarly miscellaneous, the editor, J.D. McClatchy, has included seven with James Merrill, including one conducted by J.D. McClatchy. The degree of self-consciousness may seem rather excessive. Has Merrill that much to tell us catechismally? As it turns out, he has: He is not only fluent, suave, sharp, witty, playful, but apparently genuinely self-searching and occasionally profound.

The interviews are the heart of the book, a set of themes and variations on himself, prompted by questions that bring the same notes ringing back. There is some repetitiveness here, even monotony, but also consistency. Merrill has never presented himself, or been presented, as a "confessional" writer. His poems are oblique without being angular, polished without being empty. They have often been called "elegant," sometimes "dandified."

Educated with as much expensive rigor as affluent America could afford, the young Merrill ac-

### BOOKS

quired several languages, a knowledge of the outside world, a degree of consciousness and a formidably precocious talent. "Jim's Book," a gathering of juvenilia, was privately published by Merrill's father when James was 16. He followed his time at Amherst with much travel, spending prolonged periods in continental Europe. Both his poetry and his fiction are nourished by his cosmopolitan life and by his wide reading in French, Italian, German and modern Greek.

As a poet, Merrill can be seen as someone who relates not at all to the line of William Carlos Williams; very little (in spite of his Eurocentrism) to Eliot or Pound; most of all to Wallace Stevens. In the second section of "Recitative," given to pieces on other writers, Merrill acknowledges the way in which Stevens's example allowed "the young practitioner" to "seek out his own faith, in his own time, and arrive (with any luck) at his own humanity," rather than be dictated to — as, Merrill suggests, Eliot, Pound and Frost dictate.

In his essay on Cavafy, "Unreal Citizen," Merrill notes, as Auden did, that "Cavafy is that rare poet whose essential quality comes through even in translation." It is a common response, but Merrill's

evident command of modern Greek, together with his sensitiveness as a poet, gave me a clearer insight than ever before into exactly what Cavafy's diction and rhythm (and, in the earlier poems, rhymes) were actually like in Greek. This essay, a review of Robert Liddell's biography and of the Edmund Keeley/Philip Sherrard translations, ends with a wonderful story about Merrill in Greece giving a lift in his car to a young Belgian who thought he was going to visit Cavafy — an elegantly unlikely hoax on someone's part, since Cavafy had died in 1933.

When he comes to disparage (as in reviewing books by Robert Hillier and Robert Penn Warren), the technical observations are less convincing. He dismisses or denigrates lines that, even out of context, seem no worse than lines he praises, elsewhere, by Robert Bagg or, in the same review, by William Jay Smith. Again, some inclusions seem marginal, such as a foreword to a libretto by Bernard de Zogheb that very few will have by them, and that is scarcely quoted by Merrill, though what he does quote sounds like a good joke. And the foreword to Robert Morse's "Nineteen Poems" (privately printed by Merrill after the death of Morse, a neighbor) reads like an affectionate aside for fellow-neighbors in Stonington, Connecticut. As for the notes from Japan and Bangkok, made on a trip in 1956-57 and extracted from carbons of letters home, they hardly seem worth the carriage: "Over and over the point is reached when Art and Nature cannot be told apart" is one of those observations on Japan that one has read too many times.

There remain, at the end of the book, three pieces of fiction. One hesitates to call all of them "stories." "Rose," written when he was 20, is a creepily whimsical anecdote, or mood-piece. "Driver" is mysteriously teasing, seeming to be some sort of allegory. "Peru: The Landscape Game" sounds like brilliant, puzzling, posturing fragments from a travel diary.

"Recitative" is best read, in its interviews and some of the critical pieces, as a useful adjunct to Merrill's poetry, illuminating much. Merrill is not an easy poet, or a poet it is easy to warm to. But "Recitative" probably comes as close as is possible to being a handbook to Merrill — a handbook rather than a primer.

Anthony Thwaite's new book of poems, "Letters from Tokyo," will be published this spring. He wrote this review for *The Washington Post*.

### DENNIS THE MENACE



\*Of course he's all one dog, Joey! You don't see two heads, do you?\*

### Solution to Last Week's Puzzle

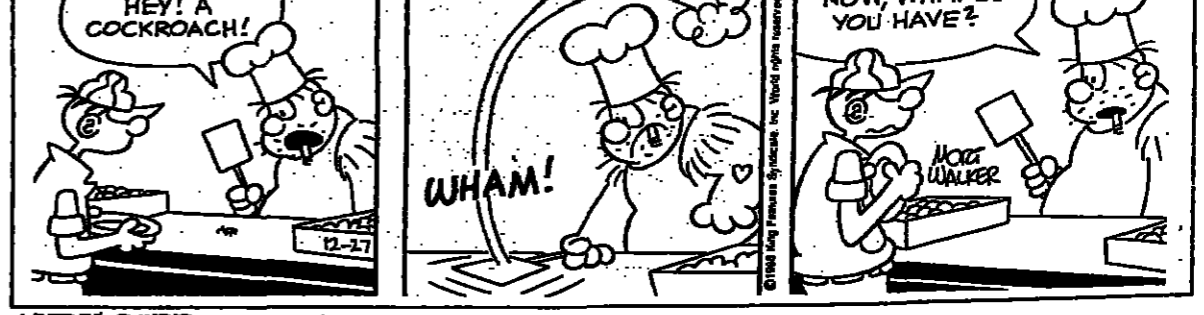
### PEANUTS



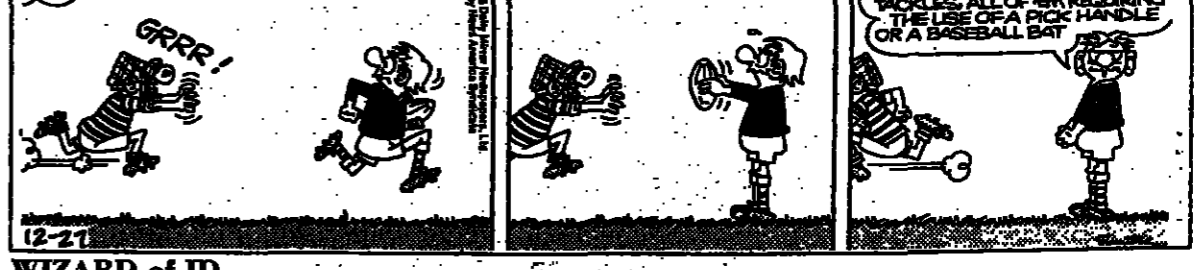
### BLONDIE



### BEEBLE BAILEY



### ANDY CAPP



### WIZARD OF ID



### REX MORGAN



### GARFIELD



### WEATHER

EUROPE		ASIA	
HIGH	LOW	HIGH	LOW
Amsterdam	12-18	Bangkok	24-30
Berlin	10-16	Beijing	22-28
Brussels	11-17	Hong Kong	23-29
Geneva	12-18	Manila	24-30
London	11-17	New Delhi	23-29
Madrid	13-19	Shanghai	24-30
Moscow	10-16	Shenyang	23-29
Paris	12-18	Taipei	24-30
Rome	13-19	Tokyo	23-29
Stockholm	11-17		
Vienna	12-18		
Zurich	13-19		
MIDDLE EAST		AFRICA	
Alexandria	18-24	Algeria	15-21
Bahia	24-30	Cairo	16-22
Beirut	18-24	Casablanca	17-23
Jerusalem	18-24	Harare	18-24
Tel Aviv	18-24	Lebanon	19-25
OCEANIA		LATIN AMERICA	
Auckland	12-18	Buenos Aires	11-17
Sydney	13-19	Caracas	12-18
		Lima	13-19
		Mexico City	14-20
		Rio de Janeiro	15-21
		NORTH AMERICA	
		Anchorage	-5-11
		Atlanta	12-18
		Boston	13-19
		Chicago	14-20
		Dallas	15-21
		Denver	16-22
		Detroit	17-23
		Houston	18-24
		Los Angeles	19-25
		Miami	20-26
		Minneapolis	21-27
		Montreal	22-28
		New York	23-29
		San Francisco	24-30
		Seattle	25-31
		Toronto	26-32
		Washington	27-33

SATURDAY'S FORECAST - CHANNEL: Choppy. FRANKFURT: Cloudy with showers. Tientsin: 3-11 (17-20). LONDON: Showers. Tientsin: 5-13 (11-14). MADRID: Fair. Tientsin: 5-13 (14-20). NEW YORK: Fair. Tientsin: 6-13 (12-15). PARIS: Cloudy with showers. Tientsin: 4-12 (10-11). ROME: Fair. Tientsin: 7-14 (15-20). SAN FRANCISCO: Partly cloudy. Tientsin: 11-19 (12-15). SHANGHAI: Partly cloudy. Tientsin: 11-19 (12-15). SINGAPORE: Partly cloudy. Tientsin: 11-19 (12-15). TOKYO: Cloudy. Tientsin: 12-18 (14-20).

**Herald Tribune**  
**BUSINESS/FINANCE**  
**BIGGER & BETTER.**

The Trib's business section is now bigger and better than ever. Every day it's packed with the business news you need. And much, much more.

Monday: Eurobonds/International Credit and World Stocks in Review.  
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 Wednesday: International Manager.  
 Thursday: Wall Street Watch.  
 Friday: Technology.  
 Saturday: Economic Scene/Business Profile.  
 Wednesday/Thursday/Friday: Business People.  
 Tuesday through Saturday: Currency Markets/Euromarkets.  
 Personal Investing on the second Monday of every month. And the latest financial figures every day.



